19

AN EPISTLE TO THE HOUSHOLD OF THE SEED OF ABRAHAM, AND To every Family in particular TO READ & PRACTISE.

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Syn 7. 68.21

BIBL. CANT. ACAD.

The Lord ſaith, *I know* Abraham, *that he will Command his Children, and his Houſhold after him, and they ſhall keep the way of the Lord, to do Juſtice and Judgment, that the Lord may bring upon* Abraham *that he hath ſpoken of him.* Gen. 18. 19.

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AN EPISTLE TO THE HOUSHOLD, &c.

FRiends, consider how the Blessing of the Lord came upon the Obedient and Faithful to the Lord, and rested upon them. The Lord said to *Abraham*, *Get thee out of thy Country, and from thy Kindred, and from thy Fathers House*, &c. *And I will make of thee a great Nation, and I will Bless thee*, &c. *And thou shall be a Blessing, and I will Bless them that Bless thee, and Curse them that Curse thee, and in thee and in thy Seed, shall all the Families of the Earth be Blessed.* *Abraham* obeyed the Lord, and went forth from *Ur* of the *Caldees*, and so he left all the Religions and Worships, and Teachers of the Countrey of the *Caldees* behind him, and followed the Lord; *And the Lord said unto* Abraham, *Walk before me, and be thou perfect*, Gen. 17. 1. And again, *The Lord said unto* Abraham, *Seeing that* Abraham *shall surely become a great and mighty Nation, and all the Nations of the Earth shall be Blessed in him*, Gen. 12. 1, 2, 3. & 18. 18. And again, *The Lord said unto* Abraham, *That in Blessing I will Bless thee, and in Multiplying I will Multiply thy seed as the Stars of Heaven, and as the Sand which is upon the Sea-Shore, and thy Seed shall possess the Gates of his Enemies, and in thy Seed shall all the Nations of the Earth be Blessed, because thou hast Obeyed my Voice.* *Abraham* Obeying Gods Voice, brought this Blessing upon him, as in *Gen.* 22. *And the Lord said, I know* Abraham *that he will Command his Children and his Houshold after him, That they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do Justice and Judgment, that the Lord may bring upon* Abraham *all that which he hath spoken of him.* Now you may see here what it is that brings the Blessing, and kept the Blessing upon Abraham and his seed, &c. *Now if you be of the true Faith, you are of Abraham, and are Blessed with faithful Abraham, Gal.* 3. 9. And in this seed and faith of Abraham, you will Command your Children and your houshold after

you, to keep the way of the Lord, to do Justice and Judgment, that the Lord may bring the Blessing upon you and your Houshold, and Children, keeping in the same Faith and Seed of *Abraham*, and you and your Children and your Houshold, keeping in the way of the Lord to do Justice and Judgment, then I say the Blessing which came upon *Abraham* will come upon you, and upon your Children and your Houshold, and then you will know the Promise of God fulfiled; *Cursed is he that Curses thee, and Blessed his he that Blesseth thee*; and therefore live and walk in the seed, *which bruses the Head of the Serpent*, in which seed all Nations are Blessed, yea all Families, Houshold and Children, in which faith and seed *you Command.* (Mark Command) *your Children and your Houshold after you, to keep the way of the Lord as Abraham* did, *to do Justice and Judgment. Gen.* 18. & 19. Now you that have not this authority to Command *over* your Children and Houshold, you are not in the same faith and seed of *Abraham* to wit, *To Command your Children and Houshold after you, to keep the way of the Lord, and to do Justice and Judgment.* Now the Lord had a Confidence in *Abraham*, and so he hath in all them that be of his seed and faith now, that they will Command their Children and Houshold to keep the way of the Lord, as he did, and walk before the Lord and to do Justice and Judgment; and that *Abraham's* Family and Children should not go back again into those Countrey Religions, or Ways which the Seed and Faith of *Abraham* hath and had led them out of: for they that are commanded to come out of them, into Gods Way, into the Way of the Lord, are commanded to keep in the Way of the Lord, and they are to command their Children and their Houshold to keep the Way of the Lord, and to keep out of all the Ways of the World, and out of all the Ungodly, Unjust Ways, in the Seed, *which bruises the head of the Serpent. And the Lord said to* Isaac, *I will make thy Seed to Multiply as the Stars of Heaven, &c. And in thy Seed shall all the Nations of the Earth be Blessed*, Gen. 26. 4. Now here you may see that *Isaac* inherited his Fathers Inheritance in the Seed, and in the Faith and Way of the Lord, in which Seed all Nations are Blest, and so do all they that be of the Faith and Seed of *Abraham*, that walk in the steps of Faithful *Abraham*, in the Way of the Lord, and obey his Voice, *&c.* Inherit the Blessing of *Abraham*, for so you may see it was not the only Care that their Children might inherit a little Earth after them, but that they might inherit the Seed and the Faith, which had the Blessing.

And Isaac *said to* Jacob, *God Almighty Bless thee and give thee the Blessing of* Abraham, *to thee and to thy Seed with thee*, Gen. 28. And this *Isaac* spake to *Jacob* before *Jacob* had any Children; and here you may see *Isaac's* Care that *Jacob* and his Seed might inherit the Faith and Blessing of *Abraham* and *Isaac*, and this should be their first inheritance, and then they should inherit

inherit the outward Land, and this ſhould be the care of all them that walk in the ſteps of the Faith of *Abraham*, to ſee that their Children and Houſhold do inherit that Faith, Seed, and Bleſſing of *Abraham* in the firſt place, by keeping in the way of the Lord, &c. And they are to *Command* their Children to walk in the way of the Lord, &c. that they may and you may ſee, that *Jacob* did inherit the Bleſſing of *Abraham* and *Iſaac*, in *Abrahams* and *Iſaac's* Seed and Faith.

When the Lord ſaid unto *Jacob*, *Thy Seed ſhall be as the duſt of the Earth, and thou ſhall ſpread abroad to the Weſt and to the Eaſt, and to the North, and to the South, and in thee and in thy ſeed ſhall all the Families of the Earth be bleſſed.* So here you may ſee *Jacob's* Poſſeſſion who did inherit the bleſſing of *Abraham*, and *Iſaac*, &c. And they that are of his Seed and Faith, which keep the Way of the Lord, &c. They do inherit this bleſſing in the Seed, in which all Nations are bleſt. And this is according to *Chriſt's* Doctrine, *Seek ye firſt the Kingdom of God and his Righteouſneſs, and all theſe things ſhall be added unto you*, to wit, *What ye ſhall Eat, or what ye ſhall drink, or wherewith you ſhall be Cloathed, for after all theſe things that are below do the Gentiles ſeek: for your Heavenly Father knoweth that you have need of all theſe things.* And here *Chriſt* which was of the Seed of *Abraham*, and of *David* according to the Fleſh, would have People to ſeek their Inheritance in the Kingdom of Heaven, and its Righteouſneſs, before they ſeek after outward things, and they were *to lay up for themſelves Treaſure in Heaven*, &c. And to know that Portion for them and their Children, *Matthew 6.* And the Apoſtle ſaith, *The Children of the Promiſe are counted for the Seed*, Rom. 9, 8. *For in* Iſaac *ſhall thy Seed be called*, Gen. 21. 12. And *Chriſt* ſaith, *the good Seed are the Children of the Kingdom.* Mat. 13. 38. and this is the Seed in which all Nations are bleſt, who keep the way of the Lord, and Juſtice and Judgment, ſuch the Almighty hath bleſſed *with the bleſſings from above, the bleſſings of the deep, the bleſſings of the breaſt, and of the womb.* Gen. 49. *And he will alſo bleſs the fruit of the Land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thy oile, and the encreaſe of thy kine, and the flocks of thy ſheep*, Deuteronomy, 7. *And they that ſerve the Lord their God, he will bleſs their bread and their water*, Exod. 23. *And a faithful man ſhall abound with bleſſings*, Proverbs. 28, 20. So you may ſee they that are in the Faith and in the Holy Seed, which keeps in the way of the Lord, and commands their Children and their Houſhold to do the ſame, they have the bleſſings from Heaven above, and the bleſſings below, yea the bleſſings of the Eternal Inheritance, and of the Kingdom of God, and that was their *Chief Inheritance*, That all the Faithful Seed of *Abraham* ſought to poſſeſs their Houſhold and their Children in, who did Command their Children and Houſhold to keep the way of God, That they might Inherit the Bleſſing. *David* ſaith, *Bleſſed is the Man that walketh not in the Counſel*

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of the ungodly, nor Standeth in the way of Sinners, nor ſitteth in the ſeat of the ſcornful. But his Delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night. Now here is the condition of them that doe enjoy the Bleſſing, they muſt keep from the Counſel of the ungodly, and the way of Sinners, and the ſeat of the Scornful. Now here you may ſee *Davids* Inſtruction how People might inherit the Bleſſing.

Levit. 10. *That you may put a difference betwixt the holy and unholy, and betweene the clean and unclean, and that you may teach your Children all the Statutes, which the Lord hath ſpoken unto them by the hand of Moſes.* And if it was ſo in the Old *Teſtament* that they might Learn the Statutes there, ſurely much more they are to Learn the Commands of Chriſt in his New *Teſtament.*

And in Deut. 4. 9, 10. *They were to Teach their Sons, and their Sons Sons;* and again they were to *Teach their Children, that they might Learn to fear God, all the days they lived upon the earth,* &c. This they were to teach their Children; and again in *Deut.* 11. It was the Command of God, that they were to teach their Children the Commandments of God, and they were to ſpeak of them, *When they ſat in their Houſe,* and *when they walkt by the Way, when they lay down, and when they roſe up, and in Deut.* 30. *Moſes* told them, *that the Word was nigh them in their Mouths, and in their hearts, that they might do it. And David ſaid, come you Children, hearken to me, and I will Teach you the fear of the Lord. Oh fear the Lord you Saints, there is no want to them that fear him, Pſal.* 34. 9, 11.

Ye that fear the Lord, Truſt in the Lord, he is their Help and their Shield. Pſal. 115. 11. And you may ſee all along, in the Old *Teſtament,* they that feared the Lord, were Commanded to teach and Inſtruct their Children the way of the Lord, that they might walk in it, and inherit the Bleſſing, which was a better Portion, then outward Riches, which will paſs away, *for they make themſelves Wings and Fly away. Solomon* ſaith, *Train up a Child in the Way he ſhould go, and when he is Old, he will not depart from it: Fooliſhneſs is bound up in the Heart of a Child, but the rod of Correction ſhall drive it far from him, Prov.* 22. 15. *He that ſpareth the rod, hateth his Son; But he that loveth him, Chaſtiſeth him betimes. By mercy and truth Iniquity is purged, and by the fear of the Lord, they depart from evil Prov.* 13. 24. and 16. 6. And the *Apoſtles* Command is, *Children to obey their Parents in the Lord for this is Right.* Eph. 6. 1. and *Coloſ.* 1. 3, 20.

It is well Pleaſing to the Lord, *Children to Obey their Parents;* and the *Biſhops* or *Elders,* were *to rule well their own Houſes, and to have their Children in Subjection, with all gravity;* and likewiſe, *The Deacons were to rule their own Children and their own Houſes well, Tim.* 1. 3. And likewiſe you may ſee the good report of the Widows *bringing up Children, which followed every good work,* &c. And in *Titus,* ſuch as were *Elders* or *Overſeers,* their *Children were to be faith-*

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ful, not accuſed of riot or unruly; and the aged Women were to be of good Behaviour as becometh Holineſs, &c. and Teachers of good things, and that they teach the younger Women to be Sober, &c. And that *the word of God be not Blaſphemed.* And *Titus* was *to Exhort Youngmen, to be ſober Minded; for the Grace of God which brings Salvation hath appeared unto all Men, Teaching, us that denying ungodlineſs and Worldly Luſts, we ſhould live Soberly, Righteouſly, and Godlily in this preſent World, that being Juſtified by his Grace, we ſhould be made heirs according to the Hope of Eternal Life.* And *Peter ſaith, as obedient Children, not Faſhioning your ſelves according to your former Luſts, in your Ignorance, but as he which hath called you is Holy ſo be you Holy, in all manner of Converſation; and be not like them, Feeding themſelves without fear, which are the Clouds without Rain, and Wells without Water, and Trees without fruit,* whom *Jude* declares againſt, *ſuch cannot Eate and Drink, to the Praiſe and Glory of God,* &c. So you ſee what care, both in the Old and New *Teſtament,* the faithful Parents had to teach their Children the way of the Lord; and the Lord hath a Confidence in all them that fear him, and are of the faith and ſeed of *Abram,* that they will not only *Admoniſh their Children and Houſhold* but *Command their Children and their Houſhold after them, to keep the way of the Lord,* &c. *Gen.* 18. *And to keep out of the Wicked Ways of the World.* The Apoſtle ſaith, *they which be of faith are bleſſed with faithful Abraham,* And ſo are all the Children of God by faith in *Chriſt Jeſus,* and if you be *Chriſts,* then are you *Abrahams ſeed and heirs according to the Promiſe. Gall.* 3. And ſo the Children of God are counted for the ſeed, which good ſeed Chriſt ſaith, *are the Children* of the Kingdom.

And the Apoſtle ſpake to the *Romans that they ſhould walk in the ſteps of the faith of Abraham.* Again the Apoſtle ſaith to the *Corinthians,* concerning *Titus, Walked not we in the ſame Spirit, Walked not we in the ſame ſteps.* And in the firſt Epiſtle of *Peter, Chriſt hath Suffered for us, leaving us an Example that we ſhould follow his ſteps, who did not ſin, neither was guile found in his Mouth.* So theſe were Holy ſteps, and are a Religious Holy People, that walk in the ſteps of faithful *Abraham,* and of *Chriſt* and the Apoſtles, and theſe have the *pure Religion and do viſit the Fatherleſs and Widows in their affliction, and keep themſelves unſpotted from the World:* and theſe are they that are *Circumciſed with the Spirit, and Baptiſed with the Holy Ghoſt, and ſerve God Night and Day, and Worſhip him in Spirit and truth;* and theſe are the Religious Families, which are of the *Holy, Divine, Pure and Precious faith, which Chriſt is the Author and Finiſher of,* which faith Purifieth their heart, aud is their victory, by which they have acceſs to God, in which they Pleaſe him, in that which Chriſt is the *Author and Finiſher of,* which is called the *Gift of God*; and they that are of this Faith, the ſame are the *Children of Abraham, and are Bleſſed with faithful Abraham; and Abraham was called the friend of God,* and ſo are all his Children that be of his ſeed and faith, they are not friends of the devil, the wicked and unrighteous one, but

but him and his works they forsake, who are Friends of God, they are Friends of Righteousness and Holiness, &c. And such the Blessings of God rest upon, them that are of the seed and walk in the seed, *Christ, that bruises the Serpent's head, and in that seed are all Nations blest*, and out of the mouth of the Seeds seed, shall not Gods word depart, but it shall abide in the Mouth of the Seeds seed (*this Living word of God*) but the Word of God doth not abide in them, who make a Profession of the Scriptures, but live not in the Power and Spirit or the Holy Ghost, that gave forth the Scriptures, such are like the *Jews*, *John* 5. and such think to have Life in the Scriptures, but they will not come unto *Christ* that they may have life, for none come to *Christ* but by believeing in the light, which is the life in him the Word.

Now dear Friends and Brethren in *Christ Jesus*, if you keep in the seed and Faith of *Abraham*, in it Command your Children and Families to walk in the way of the Lord, for in it you have Authority that they may keep the Pure Holy and Righteous way of the Lord after you, when you are gone, that they may succeed you in the Faith and seed, and way of the Lord, and in the Blessings of God, as *Isaac* and *Jacob* did *Abram*. Amen.

G. F.

THE END.